

~~SECRET~~

STAFF

PAGE 002
TOT: 240119Z JUN 80

2. GRENADA: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

//LOCAL DISSIDENTS LED BY FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL APPARENTLY PLANTED THE BOMB LAST THURSDAY THAT KILLED TWO SPECTATORS AND NARROWLY MISSED PRIME MINISTER BISHOP AND THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO GRENADA.//

//BISHOP CLAIMS THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, LIKE SEVERAL OTHER COUP PLOTS ALLEGEDLY UNCOVERED DURING HIS 15-MONTH RULE, WAS EITHER PLANNED OR ENCOURAGED BY THE US. A PROMINENT BARBadian LEFTIST REPORTEDLY HAS SAID PRIVATELY THAT HE BELIEVES THE CIA WAS RESPONSIBLE.//

//BISHOP HAS IMPLICATED AT LEAST ONE FORMER SERGEANT, WHO APPARENTLY EITHER QUIT OR WAS DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY IN A PURGE OF SUSPECTED SYMPATHIZERS OF DEPOSED PRIME MINISTER GAIRY. BISHOP, WHOSE LONGSTANDING FEAR OF A COUP APPEARS TO HAVE DEEPENED IN RECENT MONTHS, PROBABLY WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO EXPAND HIS LARGE BUT UNSOPHISTICATED SECURITY FORCES.

~~SECRET~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

FEB 15 1998

17

~~SECRET~~

STAFF

PAGE 003
TOT: 240119Z JUN 80

NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS, MOST OF WHICH HAVE BEEN COOL
TO BISHOP BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE LINKS TO CUBA, WILL NONE-
THELESS BACK HIS STRONG DENUNCIATION OF A FORM OF POLI-
TICAL VIOLENCE NEW TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN//

//THE INCIDENT IN GRENADA CAME LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER
THE BOMBING DEATH IN GUYANA OF THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION
LEADER AND RESPECTED HISTORIAN WALTER RODNEY--THE FIRST
KILLING OF A MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE IN THE WEST INDIES.
ALLEGATIONS OF US COMPLICITY IN BOTH INCIDENTS ARE
LIKELY TO INCREASE AND COULD HAVE AN IMPACT IN THE
COMING JAMAICAN ELECTION. CHARGES OF US DESTABILIZATION
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ALREADY
HAVE BEGUN TO SURFACE IN KINGSTON.//

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~